23.05 Billion Tonnes proved reserves were established. New legislative amendments were made to permit mining by companies engaged in the business of generation of power, manufacture of iron & steel and cement for mining coal for captive consumption. The prices of coking coal and A,B,C, & D grades of non-coking coal were de-regulated during the Eighth Plan.

(b) The following steps were taken by Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. during last three years.

(i) 5 on-going projects with aggregate capacity of 10.83 M/Y were completed.

(ii) 5 on-going projects with an aggregtate capacity of 20.10 M/Y are in advanced stage of implementation.

(iii) Advance Action on 5 projects having aggregated capacity of 29.9. M/Y have been taken up.

(iv) 4 project reports for an aggregate production capacity of 21 M/Y have been approved by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. Board.

(c) Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. proposed to increase its production from a level of 37.36 Mt. (1996-97) to a level of 47.25 Mt by the terminal year of IX Plan (2001-02)

Import of Coal

473. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering import of coal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the present export and import policy, coal can be freely imported by the consumers themselves considering their needs and exercising their own commercial judgement. Government do not propose to import coal to meet the needs of any consumer.

Health facilities to coal mine workers

474. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide better health care facilities to the coal mine workers;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction by different coal companies;

(c) whether the Mahanadi Coal Field limited (MCL) has done anything during last three years in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details theeof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the last few years various special/super special facilities like Neonatology, Dialysis Unit, ICU, TMT and Holter monitor, Neuresurgery with Whole Body CT Scanner Unit, Endoscopy Unit, Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy, Physio Therapy Unit etc. have been created at various hospitals of CIL.

(c) and (d) The details of steps taken in Mahanadi Coalfields limtied (MCL) during last three years are given in the statement attached.

Statement

The details of steps taken in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited during last three years are as under:

(I) 250 bedded Nehru Satabadi Central Hospital has been commissioned at Talcher in June, 1995 in phased manner with 100 beds in Ist phase having 12 specialised department. This hospital is well equipped with 8 bedded ICCU and full fledged pathology

department with HTV test etc., Blood bank, Ultra-Sonography, Upper G.L. Endoscopy & X-Ray facilities.

(II) 50 beds have been added in Central Hospital, IB Valley in 1995 raising the number of total beds to 150.

(III) One General Nursing & Midwifery Training School, in collaboration with Orissa Govt. has been started from July 1996 with 30 students per year.

(IV) Four new dispensaries have been commissioned in 1994-95 and made functional. These are as under:

(A) Samleswari Dispensary, IB Valley Area.

(B) Budhijam Dispensary, orient Area.

(C) Dispensary at Basumunara Area.

(D) Dispensary at MCL Office, Bhubaneswar.

(V) One air-conditioned mobile clinic van has been provided at Talcher field during 1994-95, with facilities having three distinct departments and provisions of O.T., ICU-bed and Diagnostic facilities.

(VI) One health Club was inaugurated on 22.12.96 at Jagruti Vihar, MCL Hq., Burla.

(VII) School Health Programme. Diagnostic camps including detection of night blindedness, Avitaminosis and other common diseases and immunisation.

(VIII) Immunisation:

Year	DPT	OPV	BCG	MEASELS	MMR	HEPATITIS	PULSEPOLI
95-95	2.070	2,070	963	386	305	—	—
95-96	2,321	2,326	1,081	479	310	—	3,247
96-97	4,074	4,074	1,702	1,065	195	145	7,715

(IX) Physically handicapped camps & Deafness camps were organised at IB Valley from 15th August, 96 in three phases. 104 persons are selected for orthodesis, tricycles given to 47 persons, wheel chairs given to 22 persons and 44 persons were given surgical treatment. 259 persons were given hearing aids.

Losses in Collieries/units of BCCL

475. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of collieries/units in BCCL which are running into losses; and

(b) what are the reasons for their losses and what action is being taken to convert them into profit making units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) 76 collieries in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), of which 73 are underground and 3 opencast, are operated at a loss at present.

(b) The reasons for losses in these collieries are given below:

(i) Adverse geo-mining conditions leading to low productivity in the mines.

(ii) Heavily built up area all around, which affects operations and also the capacity utilisation of equipments.

(iii) Surplus manpower leading to high wage cost.

(iv) BCCL was all along under administered price regime wherein the sale price was far too low compared to the cost of production. De-regulation of pricing of some categories of coal